

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT RICHARD C. LEVIN OF YALE UNIVERSITY AT THE NATIONAL CIVIC COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 23, Members of Congress joined with representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials, and hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the National Days of Remembrance in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. The keynote address at this solemn ceremony was delivered by the distinguished President of Yale University, Dr. Richard C. Levin's meaningful words served to remind us all of our communal responsibility to educate our children and grandchildren.

Dr. Levin is the twenty-second President of Yale University. Prior to his outstanding service in this office, he added to the University's unparalleled reputation through his efforts as the Frederick William Beinecke Professor of Economics at Yale. In addition to teaching a wide variety of courses on subjects ranging from the oil industry to the history of economic thought, President Levin served on dozens of major committees and rose in the administrative ranks to become the chairman of the economics department and the dean of the graduate schools at Yale before his October 2, 1993 inauguration as President of the University.

Mr. Speaker, I insert President Levin's thought-provoking remarks for the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to take note of their meaning and importance.

"BLESSED IS THE MARCH. . ."

(By Richard C. Levin)

The main camp at Auschwitz was situated, not in remote isolation, but in a densely populated region. To the east, immediately adjacent to the camp, was a pleasant village, complete with a hotel and shops, built to house SS troops and their families. One mile farther east was the town of Auschwitz, intended by the very men who ordered the construction of the camps to be a center of industrial activity, a focus of German resettlement at the confluence of three rivers, with easy access to the coal fields of Upper Silesia.¹

In his chilling work on the origins of Auschwitz, Robert-Jan van Pelt documents the Utopian vision that drove the systematic planning for German colonization of the East. In December 1941, Hans Stosberg, the architect and master planner, sent his friends a New Year's greeting card. On the front he wished them "health, happiness, and a good outcome for every new beginning." The card's central spread depicted his drawing for a reconstruction of the central market place in Auschwitz. The inscription on the back of the greeting card connected Stosberg's current project with National Socialist mythology:

"In the year 1241 Silesian knights, acting as saviors of the Reich, warded off the Mongolian assault at Wahlstatt. In that same century Auschwitz was founded as a German town. After six hundred years [sic] the Führer Adolf Hitler is turning the Bolshevik menace away from Europe. This year, 1941, the construction of a new German city and

the reconstruction of the old Silesian market have been planned and initiated."

To Stosberg's inscription, I would add that during the same year, 1941, it was decided to reduce the space allocated to each prisoner at the nearby Auschwitz-Birkenau camp from 14 to 11 square feet.

How, in one of the most civilized nations on earth, could an architect boast about work that involved not only designing the handsome town center depicted on his greeting card but the meticulous planning of facilities to house the slave labor to build it?

This is but one of numberless questions that knowledge of the Holocaust compels us to ask. In the details of its horror, the Holocaust forces us to redefine the range of human experience; it demands that we confront real, not imagined, experiences that defy imagination.

How can we begin to understand the dehumanizing loss of identity suffered by the victims in the camps? How can we begin to understand the insensate rationality and brutality of the persecutors? How can we begin to understand the silence of the bystanders? There is only one answer: by remembering.

The distinguished Yale scholar, Geoffrey Hartman, tells us, "the culture of remembrance is a high tide. . . . At present, three generations are preoccupied with Holocaust memory. There are the eyewitnesses; their children, the second generation, who have subdued some of their ambivalence and are eager to know their parents better; and the third generation, grand-children who treasure the personal stories of relatives now slipping away."²

The tide will inevitably recede. And if there are no survivors to tell the story, who will make their successors remember and help them to understand? Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, along with those of sister museums in other cities, are educating the public about the horrors of the Shoah. Museums, university archives, and private foundations are collecting and preserving the materials that enable us to learn from the past, and it is the special role of universities to support the scholars who explore and illuminate this dark episode in human history. Our universities have a dual responsibility: to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and to seek a deeper understanding of it.

This is a daunting and important responsibility. To confront future generations with the memory of the Holocaust is to change forever their conception of humanity. To urge them to understand it is to ask their commitment to prevent its recurrence.

In the words of Hannah Senesh, the 23 year-old poet and patriot executed as a prisoner of the Reich in Budapest, "Blessed is the match that is consumed in kindling a flame." May the act of remembrance consume our ignorance and indifference, and light the way to justice and righteousness.

FOOTNOTES

¹Robert-Jan van Pelt, "Auschwitz: From Architect's Promise to Inmate's Perdition," *Modernism/Modernity*, 1:1, January 1994, 80-120. See also Deborah Dwork and Robert-Jan van Pelt, *Auschwitz: 1270 to the Present*, New York: W.W. Norton, 1996.

²Geoffrey Hartman, "Shoah and Intellectual Witness," *Partisan Review*, 1998:1, 37.

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the Centennial of the oldest social work training program in the nation, I hereby offer congratulations to the Columbia University School of Social Work. Evolving from a summer program organized by the Charity Organization Society in New York, the school of Social Work has a long and distinguished history of pioneering research, informed advocacy and exceptional professional training.

It is a remarkable accomplishment that social workers have played key roles in every major social reform movement, from settlement houses to labor reform, to the New Deal, to civil rights and voter registration. Many of the things we take for granted today—Social Security, child labor laws, the minimum wage, the 40-hour work week, Medicare—came about because social workers saw injustice, acted, and inspired others.

Throughout the century Columbia's faculty, students and alumni have worked tirelessly to address both the causes and symptoms of our most pressing social problems. National movements, such as the White House Conference on Children and the National Urban League, have emerged from projects undertaken by the School's faculty and administrators in cooperation with professional and community organizations. The entire nation has benefitted from the work of people like Eveline Burns (Social Security); Mitchell I. Ginsberg (Head Start); Richard Cloward (welfare rights and voter registration); Alfred Kahn and Sheila B. Kamenman (cross-national studies of social services) and David Fanshel (children in foster care).

As your School, and indeed the social work profession, move into their second centuries, they will be challenged to respond to social change, new social problems, family change, and evolving societal commitments. Now more than ever, we will need well-trained and dedicated social workers to work with troubled children and families, organize communities for change, conduct cutting-edge research, administer social programs, and alleviate society's most intractable problems.

It is with appreciation and admiration that I extend my best wishes to the Columbia School of Social Work on its Centennial and look forward to its future activity and achievement.

HONORING DETECTIVE WILLIAM CRAIG, NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 15, 1998, Detective William E. Craig will retire from the North Miami Police Department after a quarter-century of protecting its citizenry. He has received numerous commendations during his service and is highly regarded by his peers.

Detective Craig, who has been with the Detective Bureau for nearly his entire career, was instrumental in forming North Miami's Major Case Squad when the city began investigating their own major crimes. Detective Craig has investigated all types of cases: burglaries, robberies, sexual batteries, and homicides.

Detective Craig was selected as North Miami's "Officer of the Month" several times during his career and was twice named its "Officer of the Year" in 1984 and 1994. He was chosen as the Dade County Police Benevolent Association's "Officer of the Year" in 1994, when his investigative skills led to the arrest of two separate serial killers.

In addition to his qualities as an investigator, Detective Craig also possesses a genuine concern for victims and their families. His compassion toward elderly victims is especially notable.

For twenty-five years, Detective Bill Craig has been a teacher, comedian, partner, leader and especially, friend to all in the North Miami Police Department. As he moves forward into the next stage of his life, I wish him God-speed.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI SHIMON AND
CAROL PASKOW

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Shimon Paskow and his wife Carol for their lifetime support of the State of Israel.

Cicero once observed how "dear, sweet and pleasing to us all is the soil of our native land." Rabbi Shimon and Carol Paskow have served both the United States and Israel with uncompromising loyalty and unending energy. This year, in recognition of their efforts, Rabbi Shimon Paskow and his wife Carol will be awarded the Golden Shofar Award by the State of Israel Bonds. Together, they have led thousands of people to Israel, helping these individuals and their families create a bond to the Jewish homeland that will last a lifetime.

Throughout his exemplary career, Rabbi Shimon has done outstanding work for the Jewish community at home and abroad. In 1960, Rabbi Shimon entered the United States Army and served as a Jewish chaplain in France and Germany and was honored by the Commanding General of the Fourth Logistical Command and the National Jewish Welfare Board. Later, he served as Deputy Command Chaplain in Alaska and the Reserve Jewish Chaplain for Tipler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. In 1993, he was decorated by the United States Army with the Meritorious Service Award.

Returning to California, Rabbi Shimon has enriched the lives of hundreds of teenagers, college students, and young couples through his community involvement. He has served as the spiritual leader of Temple Etz Chaim for almost 30 years, and under his guidance the temple has grown by leaps and bounds, expanding membership from just under 100 families in 1969 to just over 700 families today. But Rabbi Shimon's influence has not been bound by temple walls. He has reached out to Jewish communities in both Ventura County

and across the country. As a member of the Community Relations Committee of the San Fernando Valley Area Council, he was appointed by the Mayor to serve on a Community Advisory Committee. He was one of the first activists instrumental in gaining interest in the plight of Russian Jews. Through this effort, Rabbi Paskow has helped thousands of Jews escape Russian persecution and migrate to Israel and other Western countries.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, as we near the celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary as a free and independent state, please join me in paying tribute to Rabbi Shimon and Carol Paskow for their volunteerism on behalf of the State of Israel and its people.

NORTHSTARS DANCE ENSEMBLE
DAZZLES WASHINGTON, DC

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Northstars Dance Ensemble for wins in the national dance titles of the Marching Auxiliaries of America Southeast Championships and the Showcase America Unlimited State/National Championships.

The Northstars have been competing on a national basis since 1980 and have won many regional and national titles.

This season the Northstars' impressive national titles were coupled with the prestigious honor of being selected by the American Dance/Drill Team to represent them in a performance in front of the Reflecting Pool in Washington, D.C. and to march in the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade on Easter Weekend.

Our Central New York community is proud of the hard work and dedication displayed by the talented members of the Northstars Dance Ensemble. I am equally proud of the support received by their parents and community.

Members of the 1998 Northstars Dance Ensemble are Captain Nicole Proscio, Co-Captains Heather Brownell and Kerri Styn, Stephanie Anderton, Dawn Bombard, Sandra Brewer, Allison Brown, Emily Brown, Laura Buchanan, Micki Downs, Renee Hunt, Stephanie Keiser, Erica Laverne, Lyndsey Ludovici, Cathy Mauro, Cindy McCartney, Melissa Messano, Katie Mulrooney, Karen Russo, Angelina Savinelli, Sara Slifka, Sara Warner, Hilary Woznica, Christine Yott, Director/Choreographer Marian Lillie, Assistant Director Cristine Fix, and Creative Staff Kim Miller, Debra Holden and Barb Keck.

Congratulations to the members of the Northstar Dance Ensemble for their impressive achievements.

ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE
MILES LERMAN AT THE NA-
TIONAL CIVIC COMMEMORATION
OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 23, Members of Congress joined with

representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials, and hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the National Days of Remembrance in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. Miles Lerman, the respected Chairperson of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and one of America's most distinguished advocates for Holocaust remembrance, delivered a moving speech devoted to the theme of this year's ceremony, "Children of the Holocaust: Their Memories, Our Legacy." Mr. Lerman eloquently and emotionally described the tragic death of 1.5 million children at the hands of Hitler's storm troopers, and, by telling the story of one young victim, conveyed to the audience the extent of our society's void because of their loss.

Miles Lerman has served as Chairperson of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council since 1993. A member of the Advisory Board of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, he was appointed to the first United States Holocaust Memorial Council in 1980 by President Carter. Prior to his appointment to lead the Council, Mr. Lerman directed its International Relations Committee and served as National Chairman of the Campaign to Remember. During the Holocaust, he fought as a partisan in the forests of southern Poland. He and his wife, Chris, a survivor of Auschwitz, rebuilt their lives in the United States; they have two children.

Mr. Speaker, I insert Miles Lerman's thought-provoking address for the RECORD, and I implore my colleagues to read them and appreciate them.

MILES LERMAN'S REMARKS, NATIONAL DAYS
OF REMEMBRANCE, CAPITOL ROTUNDA—
APRIL 23, 1998

Distinguished Ambassadors, Honorable Members of Congress, ladies and gentlemen.

As the Honorable Ambassador, Eliahu Ben Elissar pointed out to you, the State of Israel is celebrating its 50th anniversary of independence.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Council was pleased to mark this occasion by including the flag of the Jewish Brigade in the presentation of the flags of the American liberating units.

On behalf of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, I would like to extend our best wishes on this special anniversary to the people of Israel and to the State of Israel.

It is our most fervent hope that the peace negotiations between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority will come to an understanding which will bring peace to this troubled region.

Happy anniversary and may your efforts for a permanent peace agreement be crowned with full success.

The theme of this year's National Days of Remembrance is remembering the children and fulfilling their legacy.

So let remembrance be our guide.

One of the expert witnesses called to testify at the trial proceedings of Adolf Eichman in Jerusalem was the world renowned historian Professor Salo Baron.

In his expert testimony, Professor Baron made the case not only for the terrible losses that the Jewish people suffered at the hands of the Nazis but he more specifically underscored the great loss that humankind at large has suffered for having been deprived of the potential talents and brain power of the one and a half million children who perished in the Holocaust.

Professor Baron stressed a point that the world is much poorer today because of these great losses.